

FROM: Gary L. Aguilar, 73653,2623
TO: Debra Conway, INTERNET:jfklancr@exo.com
CC: Gary Aguilar, 73653,2623
Gary Aguilar, INTERNET:garyag@ix.netcom.com
STEVE N. BOCHAN, 74273,3457
Robert A. Chapman, 72623,3203
Milicent L. Cranor, 102707,60
INTERNET:pdscott@violet., INTERNET:pdscott@violet.berkeley.edu
John Judge, INTERNET:nisbco@igc.apc.org
Barb Junkkarinen, 74754,2302
DATE: 3/14/96 22:25

Re: COPA awards

Debra,

You write > >

Sender: jfklancr@exo.com

We received the following letter concerning the article John Kelin =
wrote on the 1995 COPA and awards. As I was in the audience during =
the award presentation, I can vouch for the light-heartedness and =
tongue-in-cheek comments, but evidently one of our readers was not.
I thought you might want to write a response to clarify the remarks =
made when introducing Mr. Weisberg's award. We'll print it in the =
Mar. issue.

Thanks,
Debra

PS: are you still interested in getting a group together in Mar?

= 2E..I was totally disgusted by C.O.P.A. = B9s Gary Aguilar = B9s comments =
about Mr. Harold Weisberg. Mr. Weisberg is a kind and decent man =
whose files are open to all serious students of the assassination. =
Along with his most gracious wife, he has opened many doors for us =
all, and without big money contracts and fanfare. There are no finer =

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books than the Whitewash series, and his 1975 Post Mordem is =
outstanding. Read his Case Open book. It lays bare all of the =
distortins that have been designed to keep the truth of John =
Kennedy = B9s murder buried with him. Mr. Weisburg = B9s thirty year search =
for answers has been a long and difficult road, but he has always =
persevered. Remember, this is a man who sued the government and won! =
All of his work was for us, the researchers who look for truth.
Mr. Weisberg is a true American hero and he deserves both our praise =
and respect. If his dislike of those who perpetuate the intolerable =
lies, about our President = B9s murder make him = B3 difficult to get along =
with, = B2 so be it. And to anyone out there who has been insulted in a =
letter by Mr. Weisberg, you more than likely deserved it!

Carla Van Dyne
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Dear Carla,

Little more praiseworthy did I think I could have been than I was in honoring Harold for his usually colorful, and just, rebukes of the rest of us. (His rebukes were how we knew we'd earned a new stripe - he'd be more polite with mere fools and idiots.) Even when he was wrong on a minor point, he couldn't help but remind us of how often we coudda, and shudda, done better ourselves.

Yes, on occasion, the grandmaster has erred. Who among us is to hurl first?

But from Weisberg's 'errors' - usually punctilious to a degree - my conviction critics were right first exploded: the relative rates (and type) of error of 'respected' loyalists vs critics gave skeptics an insurmountable edge in fact and truth, if not in 'respected' opinion. (That there is a difference between the two is enlightening to me, too.)

Weisberg, unlike most of us, puts up an encyclopedic position, but acknowledges superior information. (He was always ready to sit back and reflect. He even gave Posner the 'run' of his place. Imagine the CIA or Belin giving any critic the 'run' of their/his places!)

Good critics usually know the evidence better, and make fewer meaningful errors, than 'respected' loyalists, and with less obvious motivation -

often thanks to Weisberg.

Can loyalists produce a Weisberg? Or a Peter Dale Scott, Paul Hoch, John Newman, James DiEugenio, Ray or Mary La Fontaine, Josiah Thompson, Sylvia Meagher, Anthony Summers, Vincent Salandria, William Turner, Mary Ferrell, David Scheim, David Mantik, Dick Russell, Walt Brown, Cyril Wecht, Mark North, David Lifton, John Judge, Kathy Cunningham, David Wrone, Gore Vidal, Henry Hurt, Mark North, Wayne Smith, Gaeton Fonzi, Steve Bocham, Dan Alcorn, Barb Junkkarinen, Wallace Milam, etc, etc, etc? No, loyalists answer with the 'disinterested' Hoover, Hosty, Specter, LBJ, Nixon, Belin, Gerald Ford, Humes-Boswell-Finck, CIA-Dolan, McNally, McAdams (of 'are you still a pederast/druggie/kept woman-hateful bitch?' fame), Posner, Artwohl, McMillan, Davidson, etc and, oh yes, the U. S. News and World Report! Why is there such an imbalance? Weisberg.

Harold Weisberg is a national treasure, and one of the only things I 'treasure' about John Kennedy's death is knowing that. I am sad my unprepared comments at COPA '95 didn't communicate that insight to you, Carla.

Gary L. Aguilar - February 21, 1996

Gary